

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00898 01 OF 02 081508Z

65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 MMO-01 EB-07 COME-00 A-01 SS-15

SP-02 ABF-01 /043 W

----- 056700

R 081215Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 3215

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAMA 898

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : EAID, BEXP, TC, QA, KU, BA, MU

SUBJECT : PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL ATTACHE,
TECHNICAL SERVICES POSITION IN GULF

REF : STATE 163344

1. THE FACT THAT A.I.D. IS ABOUT TO LAUNCH A COST-SHARING
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ADVISORY PROGRAM IN BAHRAIN MAKES THIS
EMBASSY'S SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO PROPOSAL REFTEL SOMEWHAT
UNIQUE AMONG GULF STATES. FOR NEXT YEAR OR SO, THEREFORE,
WE WOULD SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF SELLING ANY A.I.D.
REIMBURSABLE ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN. MARKET
FOR SERVICES OF A REGIONAL A.I.D. ATTACHE WOULD, THEREFORE,
HAVE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE OTHER EMBASSIES IN THE AREA.
WE DO NOT WISH TO SUGGEST THAT THERE IS NO FUTURE MARKET FOR
A.I.D. REIMBURSABLE SERVICES IN BAHRAIN BUT SIMPLY THAT IT IS
A LONGER TERM PROSPECT THAN IT MIGHT BE ELSEWHERE. SINCE KUWAIT
(KUWAIT 3215) HAS QUESTIONED DESIRABILITY OF LOCATING REGIONAL
ATTACHE THERE AND BAHRAIN APPEARS TO BE A.I.D.'S SECOND CHOICE
AS A BASE OF OPERATIONS, OUR RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL
FOCUSES ON WHETHER BAHRAIN WOULD BE A GOOD PLACE FROM WHICH TO
OPERATE. IF OTHER GULF POSTS ESTABLISH THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANAMA 00898 01 OF 02 081508Z

SUCH REGIONAL ACTIVITY. FOLLOWING ARE RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC

QUESTIONS REFTEL:

(A) FORGETTING EMBASSY'S LIMITED ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT CAPABILITIES, U.S. AND OTHER BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS CONTINUE TO WORK ON ASSUMPTION THAT FOR TRULY REGIONAL ACTIVITIES BAHRAIN REMAINS THE BEST BASE IN THE GULF. WE WISH TO STRESS, HOWEVER, AS WESTERN BUSINESSES ARE FINDING OUT, TO SAY THAT BAHRAIN IS THE BEST PLACE IN THE GULF FROM WHICH TO OPERATE DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT IS NECESSARILY CONVENIENT OR INEXPENSIVE, OR COMFORTABLE OR ALL THAT EASY TO GET IN AND OUT OF. THE ADVANTAGES OF BAHRAIN ARE STRICTLY RELATIVE AND THIS OF COURSE RAISES SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER A REGIONAL ATTACHE FOR THE GULF COULD NOT BEST OPERATE OUT OF WASHINGTON RATHER THAN A GULF STATE. ON THE BASIS OF EXPERIENCE OF PRIVATE COMPANIES TRYING TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION, IT IS STILL MOOT.

B. LEVEL OF A.I.D. REPRESENTATION WOULD NOT SEEM SO IMPORTANT AS THE QUALITY AND EXPERIENCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL SELECTED. IN THIS EMBASSY THERE ARE THREE GRADE LEVELS FROM A FUNCTIONAL STANDPOINT: ONE IS THE AMBASSADOR; SECOND IS THE FIRST SECRETARY, ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER WHEN ACTING IN CAPACITY OF AMBASSADOR'S RIGHT-HAND MAN OR CHARGE; AND THIRD IS EVERYBODY ELSE. HENCE WE WOULD HAVE NO PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT THE GRADE LEVEL OF THE REGIONAL ATTACHE SO LONG AS HE UNDERSTOOD REALITIES OF HIS REAL POSITION.

C. WE BELIEVE MECHANICS OF ACCREDITATION WOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEM WITH GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN.

D. SINCE ALL OF REGIONAL ATTACHE'S BUSINESS WOULD BE OUTSIDE OF BAHRAIN, PROPOSAL WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE MINIMAL IMPACT ON WORK OF THIS COMMERCIAL SECTION.

E. ON BASIS BAHRAIN EXPERIENCE AT LEAST, WE SEE A ROLE FOR USG ADVISORY ASSISTANCE AS A LINK BETWEEN HOST GOVERNMENT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATORS AND PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS. GENERALLY, THEREFORE, USG ADVISORY ASSISTANCE WOULD BE COMPLEMENTARY TO RATHER THAN COMPETITIVE WITH PRIVATE SECTOR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT SOME PRIVATE ACTIVITIES WOULD NOT FEEL THAT A.I.D. WAS COMPETING WITH THEM.

F. AS A.I.D. WELL AWARE, ABILITY OF THIS EMBASSY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT EVEN FOR ONCOMING TEN ADVISORS TO GOB BEING PROVIDED UNDER COST-SHARING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT IS YET TO BE CONVINCINGLY PROVEN. CLEARLY A REGIONAL A.I.D. ATTACHE, LIKE ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MANAMA 00898 01 OF 02 081508Z

OTHER REGIONAL OFFICER ASSIGNED HERE, WOULD HAVE TO BE ESSENTIALLY SELF-SUPPORTING. THEREFORE, THERE WOULD BE A REQUIREMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/SECRETARIAL FSS SUPPORT AND CONCEIVABLY THE NEED FOR AN FSL INTERPRETER/TRANSLATOR/SECRETARY AS WELL. IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUDGE WHETHER A SINGLE ATTACHE WOULD NEED SUCH SUPPORT ON A FULL-TIME BASIS BUT IF MANAMA WERE CHOSEN AS A BASE OF OPERATIONS A.I.D. COULD KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE BY MAKING SUCH SUPPORT STAFF AVAILABLE TO SHARE BURDEN

OF SUPPORTING RESIDENT A.I.D. ADVISORS COMING TO BAHRAIN.

G. AS TO TIMING, WE SENSE THAT THIS PROPOSAL RAISES
ENOUGH QUESTIONS TO WARRANT APPROACHING IT CAREFULLY, PERHAPS
EXPLORING THE MARKET ON TDY BASIS BEFORE MAKING A DECISION
RE PERMANENT STAFF.

3. COMMENT: TO EXTENT SELLING VARIOUS TYPES OF TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE IS LIKE SELLING PRIVATE SECTOR GOODS AND SERVICES,
WE THINK QUESTION MUST BE RAISED OF WHETHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
IS IN ITSELF A PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE. TO WHAT EXTENT WOULD A
REGIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ATTACHE BE ABLE TO PROVIDE MUCH MORE
ACROSS-THE-BOARD EXPERTISE THAN RESIDENT EMBASSY STAFF IN THE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00898 02 OF 02 131736Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 MMO-01 EB-07 COME-00 A-01 SS-15

SP-02 ABF-01 /043 W

----- 126479

R 081215Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3216

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MANAMA 898

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN CORRECTION)

AREA? IS THERE NOT RATHER A NEED FOR A.I.D. EXPERTS FROM
VARIOUS DISCIPLINES TO VISIT VARIOUS GULF STATES UPON EMBASSY
REQUEST TO EXPLORE SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES
FROM A TRULY PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND?

4. WARNING; ON BASIS OUR EXPERIENCE OVER FIVE YEARS WITH
VARIOUS SCHEMES FOR USG REGIONAL OPERATIONS IN THE GULF, ONE
PROBLEM MUST BE FULLY AIRED BEFORE A DECISION IS MADE TO PLACE
REGIONAL ATTACHE IN BAHRAIN. IF THERE IS ANY REPEAT ANY SERIOUS
DOUBT ABOUT ATTACHE HAVING AMPLE TRAVEL FUNDS AT ALL TIMES

THEN THE PROPOSAL. WHATEVER ITS MERITS OTHERWISE, IS A
NON-STARTER.

TWINAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LAW, ATTACHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANAMA00898
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760269-1095
From: MANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760780/aaaacsaj.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 163344
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL ATTACHE, TECHNICAL SERVICES POSITION IN GULF
TAGS: EAID, BEXP, TC, QA, KU, BA, MU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006